

Patent claims:

1. A diagnostic method for determining the VWF-cleaving activity of ADAMTS-13 in a test medium, in which from 0.5 to 5 U of an ADAMTS-13-free von Willebrand factor (VWF) is/are added, per ml, to the test medium and, after incubation, the ADAMTS-13 activity is determined by way of the reduction in the VWF-mediated aggregation of platelets.
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- 10 2. A diagnostic method for determining the VWF-cleaving activity of ADAMTS-13 in a test medium, in which platelets are added to ADAMTS-13-free von Willebrand factor (VWF), with the platelets aggregating and the test medium then being added to this mixture and the
15 ADAMTS-13 activity being determined by way of the dissociation of the platelet aggregates.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the method is carried out in the presence of
20 ristocetin.
4. The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the reduction in the VWF-mediated aggregation of platelets is determined using a calibration curve,
25 with normal human plasma which has been diluted with varying quantities of inactivated normal human plasma being used for constructing the calibration curve.
- 30 5. The method as claimed in claim 2, in which the dissociation of the platelets is determined using a calibration curve, with normal human plasma which has been diluted with varying quantities of inactivated

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normal human plasma being used for constructing the calibration curve.

- 5 6. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that a serine protease inhibitor is used.
- 10 7. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that no serine protease inhibitor is used.
- 15 8. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that divalent cations are used.
- 15 9. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that no divalent cations are used.
- 20 10. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that the ADAMTS-13-free VWF is bound to a solid phase.
- 25 11. The method as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the solid phase is a particulate solid phase.
- 25 12. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the test medium is blood plasma.
- 30 13. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the test medium is blood serum.
14. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the test medium is saliva.

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15. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the test medium is cerebro-spinal fluid.
- 5 16. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the test medium is cell culture supernatant.
- 10 17. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the test medium is cell extract.
18. A diagnostic kit, containing an ADAMTS-13-free VWF and platelets.
- 15 19. The diagnostic kit as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that it additionally contains ristocetin.
- 20 20. The use of a VWF activity detection reagent for detecting the protease ADAMTS-13.